



Proclamation *Presented*

In Recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen

WHEREAS, February is African-American History Month in the State of Hawai'i, and the Aloha State celebrates not only the rich history of African-American achievements in Hawai'i, but is proud to recognize the contribution of the Tuskegee Airmen to the preservation of liberty; and

WHEREAS, despite having played significant roles in our nation's most important battles since its founding, African-Americans were denied military leadership positions and skilled training because many falsely believed they lacked the necessary qualifications, and prior to 1940, African-Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military; and

WHEREAS, in 1941 the barriers preventing the nation from utilizing the tremendous skills and dedication of African-American military personnel neared an end when civil rights groups and the press exerted pressure for an African-American pursuit squadron to be formed in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen served our country with courage and distinction in both combat and support positions in World War II, flying over 1,578 missions, destroying 261 enemy aircraft and earning 850 medals, including 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, 8 Purple Hearts and 14 Bronze Stars; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded, collectively, the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush and the United State Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Baham-Goldsborough Hawai'i Chapter of Tuskegee Airman Inc. is named in honor of Romaine H. Goldsborough, who was laid to rest in Hawai'i on Sept. 25, 2013, and whose legacy continues in the Romaine H. Goldsborough Scholarship Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March 1, 2014, as

"TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in expressing our deep and profound gratitude to the Tuskegee Airmen for their courage and commitment to the preservation of our freedom.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-seventh day of February, 2014.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i